

Module 1: Reimbursable Services

Module 1: Reimbursable Services

LEA Program Services

- Section 1 - Assessment Services
- Section 2 - Treatment Services
- Section 3 - Transportation Services
- Section 4 - Targeted Case Management (TCM) Services

Module 1: Reimbursable Services

Training Objectives

Participants will:

- Understand the layout of the LEA Provider Manual and how to locate current policy information
- Understand the services that are reimbursable
- Understand required components of IEP/IFSP assessments
- Identify qualified rendering practitioners
- Understand authorization requirements for services
- Understand daily and annual reimbursement limitations

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LEA Provider Manual - Individual Services Layout

- LEA Provider Manual is located on website at:
www.dhcs.ca.gov/ProvGovPart/Pages/LEA.aspx
- Layout for each type of service is consistent across the manual and includes:
 - Service Description
 - Covered Services
 - Qualified Rendering Practitioners
 - Prescriptions, Referrals and Recommendations
 - Supervision Requirements
 - Service Limitations (Annual and Daily)
 - Procedure Codes/Service Limitations Chart

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Section 1: Assessment Services

Module 1: Reimbursable Services

Assessment Services - Overview

- Assessment Types
- Required Components/Activities
- Authorization for Assessment Services
- Qualified Practitioners and Supervision Requirements
- Assessment Service Limitations

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Assessment Services - Assessment Types

- IEP/IFSP Assessments
 - Conducted to determine a student's eligibility for IDEA services
 - Conducted to obtain information about the student to identify and modify services in the IEP/IFSP
- Non-IEP/IFSP Assessments
 - Conducted for students that are NOT eligible for IDEA services
 - "Free Care" rules apply
 - Not the focus of today's training

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Assessment Services - Assessment Types

IEP/IFSP Assessment Types:

- Initial – Evaluation to determine a student's eligibility under IDEA and the educational needs of the student
- Triennial – Re-evaluation required once every three years to assess continued eligibility under IDEA
- Annual – Less extensive re-evaluation to measure annual progress
- Amended – Evaluation conducted if condition(s) warrant re-evaluation or changes to a student's plan of care

Provider Manual Reference: loc ed indiv

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Assessment Services - Assessment Types

LEAs may bill Medi-Cal for the following types of assessments when conducted as part of an IEP/IFSP:

- Psychosocial Status
- Psychological
- Health
- Health/Nutrition
- Audiological
- Speech-Language
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy

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Assessment Services - Required Components/Activities

- The following activities are required in an Initial or Triennial IEP/IFSP assessment:
 - Review student records
 - Interview the student and/or parent/guardian
 - Observe the student in appropriate settings
 - Schedule and administer appropriate tests and assessments
 - Score and interpret test results, as applicable
 - Write a report to summarize assessment results

Provider Manual Reference: loc ed indiv

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Assessment Services - Required Components/Activities

- Annual or Amended assessments generally include the same required components and activities as Initial or Triennial assessments
- Additional testing and assessments may be less extensive or excluded, depending on the student's needs

Provider Manual Reference: loc ed indiv

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Assessment Services - Authorization for Services

- LEAs must document all assessments with either:
 - A written prescription, referral or recommendation by the appropriate health services practitioner;
- OR
- A request for assessment by a parent, teacher or registered credentialed school nurse

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Assessment Services - Authorization for Services

| | Prescription | Referral | Recommendation |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Assessments conducted by a Physical Therapist or Occupational Therapist | By Physician or Podiatrist | | |
| Assessments conducted by a Speech Language Pathologist, Audiologist, or Audiometrist | | By Physician or Dentist | |
| Assessments conducted by a Psychologist, Counselor (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Credentialed School Counselor), or Social Worker | | | By Physician, Credentialed School Nurse, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Psychologist, or Licensed Educational Psychologist |
| Assessments conducted by a Physician, Credentialed School Nurse, or Optometrist | | | By Physician or Credentialed School Nurse |

Note: A parent, teacher or school nurse may also refer the student for assessment

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Assessment Services - Authorization for Services

- Prescription
 - Formal prescription for services within the practitioner's scope of service
- Referral
 - Less formal than a prescription, but meets certain documentation standards
- Recommendation
 - May consist of an note in the student's file that indicates the observation/reason for assessment, practitioner type, and signature

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Assessment Services - Qualified Practitioners

- LEAs must maintain documentation of each practitioner's license, registration, certification or credential
 - Credential requirements are at the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing website (www.ctc.ca.gov)
- LEAs may contract with qualified practitioners to provide LEA services
 - LEAs may only bill Medi-Cal for contracted health services when that service supplements services provided by an LEA employee

Provider Manual Reference: local provider

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Assessment Services - Qualified Practitioners

Exercise : Qualified Practitioners and Authorization Requirements for Assessments

Qualified Practitioner Grid and Questions in Handout Packet

Provider Manual Reference: loc ed bil

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Assessment Services - Service Limitations

- Initial IFSP
 - Initial IEP
- One initial assessment*
- Triennial
- One assessment every 15 months*
- Annual
- One assessment every 12 months when an initial or triennial assessment is not billed*
- Amended
- One assessment every 3 months when an initial, triennial or annual assessment is billed*

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Assessment Services - Service Limitations

- Two assessment service types are billed in 15-minute increments and may not utilize rounding policy*:
 - Psychosocial Status Assessments
 - Health/Nutrition Assessments
- No limitation on number of 15-minute increments

* For assessments, in order to bill Medi-Cal for a 15-minute increment, the practitioner must complete the 15 minutes of service

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Assessment Services - FAQ #1

If an IEP/IFSP initial assessment is provided and the student is determined ineligible for services under IDEA, is the IEP/IFSP initial assessment billable to Medi-Cal?

YES

IEP/IFSP assessments are conducted to determine a student's eligibility for services under IDEA. Initial assessment services are billable to Medi-Cal even if the results documented in the IEP determine the student is not eligible for the Medi-Cal service. All appropriate documentation is still required to support the claim and should be on file.

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Assessment Services - FAQ #2

Is attendance at the IEP/IFSP meeting billable for each practitioner?

NO

IEP attendance time is not a billable service. Conducting and completing an assessment (including time spent for report writing) as part of an IEP/IFSP is billable.

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Section 2: Treatment Services

Module 1: Reimbursable Services

Treatment Services - Overview

- Treatment Types
- Billing Increments
- Authorization for Treatment Services
- Qualified Practitioners and Supervision Requirements
- Treatment Service Limitations

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Treatment Services - Treatment Types

LEAs may bill Medi-Cal for the following IEP/IFSP treatments:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Audiology
- Hearing Check
- Psychology and Counseling
- Nursing
 - o School Health Aide

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Treatment Services - Billing Increments

- The following treatment services are based on 15-45 continuous minutes of service, with additional service time* billed in 15-minute increments:
 - Physical Therapy
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Speech Therapy
 - Audiology
 - Psychology and Counseling

* Additional treatment service time may be rounded up when seven or more continuous minutes are provided.

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Treatment Services - Billing Increments

- The following treatment services are billed in 15-minute increments*:
 - o Nursing
 - o School Health Aide

* Additional treatment service time may be rounded up when seven or more continuous minutes are provided.

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Treatment Services - Billing Increments

- The following IEP/IFSP treatment service is an encounter-based service and is not billed based on time spent with the student:
 - o Hearing Check

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Treatment Services - Authorization for Services

| | Prescription | Referral | Recommendation |
|--|----------------------------|---|---|
| Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Treatment Services | By Physician or Podiatrist | | |
| Speech Therapy and Audiology Treatment Services | | By Physician or Dentist, or by a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist (requires a Physician-Based Standards Protocol)* | |
| Psychology and Counseling Treatment Services | | | By Physician, Credentialed School Nurse, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Psychologist, or Licensed Educational Psychologist |

* See referral option on next slide

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Physician-Based Standards Protocol

- LEAs may use a **Physician-Based Standards Protocol** for Speech Pathology and Audiology **treatment** services
 - Protocol must be reviewed and approved by a Physician no less than once every two years
 - Specific contents of a protocol may vary with each LEA

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Components of Physician-Based Standards Protocol

Basic components of a protocol typically include:

- Eligibility and exit criteria set by the LEA for Speech and Language services for disorders of articulation, language, fluency (stuttering), and voice as referenced in the LEA's documents and publications
- Indication that medical necessity for these disorders is established through criteria that is reflective of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) publication *Preferred Practices for the Profession of Speech Language Pathology* (1997) and the CA Education Code, Section 56333
- Indication that speech and language disorders are not due to unfamiliarity with the English language

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Components of Physician-Based Standards Protocol

Basic components (*continued*):

- Developmental norms for speech and language development
- A statement that assessment and treatment services must be documented in writing
- Acknowledgement that parents are provided information through the IEP process to share with their primary care physician
- A statement indicating that a physician designated by the LEA is available to audit records for services billed to Medi-Cal where medical necessity is a requirement for reimbursement

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Treatment Services - Qualified Practitioners

Exercise : Qualified Practitioners and Authorization Requirements for Treatments

Qualified Practitioner Grid and Questions in Handout Packet

Provider Manual Reference: loc ed bil

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Treatment Services - Service Limitations

- Initial treatment services (15-45 minutes)
 - Bill 1 unit per 15 minutes
 - Maximum of 3 units per beneficiary per LEA provider
 - 1, 2 or 3 units reimbursed under one rate
- Additional treatment services (15-minute increments)
 - Bill 1 unit per 15 minutes
 - Maximum of 21 units per beneficiary
 - Reimbursable only after LEA completes 45 minutes of initial treatment service

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Treatment Services - Service Limitations

- Nursing, LVN and trained health care aide services
 - Bill 1 unit per 15 minutes
 - Maximum of 32 units per beneficiary (per service type)
- Hearing check
 - Bill 1 unit per encounter
 - Maximum of 1 unit per beneficiary

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Treatment Services - FAQ #1

Do practitioners need a license or credential in order for an LEA to bill for their services?

YES

With one exception, trained health care aides do not require a license or credential to provide specialized physical health care service. However, they must work under the supervision of a licensed physician/surgeon, registered credentialed school nurse or certified public health nurse.

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Treatment Services - FAQ #2

Do certified public health nurses always need to be supervised when providing treatment services if they do not have a valid credential?

YES

Certified public health nurses who do not have valid credentials require supervision, with one exception, when providing specialized physical health care services as specified in *California Education Code, Section 49423.5*.

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Treatment Services - FAQ #3

If a trained health care aide is constantly accompanying an IEP/IFSP student and assessing or monitoring their medical condition, can we bill for the time when the health care aide is not providing direct medical care? For example, if a trained health care aide accompanies a student who must be constantly monitored for suctioning, can this monitoring time be billed?

YES

An LEA can bill for an IEP/IFSP student to receive constant monitoring as part of direct medical service if it is medically necessary and authorized in the IEP/IFSP.

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Treatment Services - FAQ #4

Can you bill medical counseling (previously billed as a health education/anticipatory guidance service) for IEP/IFSP students?

YES

Medical counseling may be provided by an appropriate practitioner as a treatment service within their scope of practice. For example, if a credentialed school nurse is providing counseling on nutrition to an IEP student that has an eating disorder (and the counseling is included in the student's IEP), this may be billed as part of the nursing treatment service.

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Treatment Services - FAQ #5

If my LEA does not employ a physician or podiatrist, do I still need a prescription for occupational therapy/physical therapy treatments?

YES

Federal and State regulations require a physician or podiatrist prescription for occupational therapy/physical therapy services. The physician-based standards protocol only applies to speech therapy and audiology services.

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Section 3: Medical Transportation Services

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Transportation - Overview

- Transportation Types and Criteria
- Authorization for Transportation Services
- Transportation Service Limitations

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Transportation - Transportation Types and Criteria

Covered Services:

- Medical Transportation (per one-way trip)
- Mileage (per mile)

Criteria for Transportation:

- Transportation provided in a litter van or wheelchair van
 - Litter van requires transportation in a prone or supine position
 - Wheelchair van requires transportation in a wheelchair
- Mileage may only be billed in conjunction with transportation

Provider Manual Reference: loc ed serv trans

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Transportation - Authorization for Services

- IEP/IFSP transportation reimbursement requirements:
 - Student receives another Medi-Cal covered service on the same day
AND
 - Transportation and the service are both authorized in the student's IEP/IFSP
- Transportation and mileage are covered between school and off-site service

Provider Manual Reference: loc ed serv trans

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Transportation - Authorization for Services

- Non-IEP/IFSP transportation and mileage are restricted to trips between the school and the location where health services are provided
 - Home to school transportation is not covered

Provider Manual Reference: loc ed serv trans

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Transportation - Service Limitations

- Medical Transportation
 - Bill 1 unit per one-way trip
 - Maximum of 24 units per beneficiary
- Mileage
 - Bill 1 unit per mile
 - No limitation on maximum units

Provider Manual Reference: loc ed serv trans

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Transportation - CMS Regulations in Moratorium

- CMS Regulations Regarding Transportation (CMS-2287)
 - Includes transportation of students from school to off-site medical service
 - Excludes transportation of students from home to school and back
- Moratorium expires June 30, 2009, subject to recent American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

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Transportation - FAQ #1

Should I bill for mileage if I'm also billing for the round-trip transportation service (service is documented in the IEP/IFSP)?

YES

Mileage and the round-trip transportation are both billable in the LEA Program, if documented appropriately.

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Transportation - FAQ #2

In order to bill Medi-Cal for non-emergency medical transportation services provided in a wheelchair van, must students be wheelchair-bound?

YES

Under current regulations, in order to bill Medi-Cal for students being transported in a wheelchair van, the student must be transported in a wheelchair.

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Section 4: Targeted Case Management

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TCM - Overview

- TCM Service Description
- LEA Provider Requirements
- Authorization for TCM Services
- Qualified Practitioners
- TCM Service Limitations

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TCM - Included Services

- When included in the IEP/IFSP, TCM services assist eligible children and family members to access needed medical, social, educational and other services, including:
 - Determining needs
 - Developing plan
 - Linking and consulting coordination
 - Accessing services outside of the school system
 - Assisting with crises
 - Reviewing progress

Provider Manual Reference: loc ed serv targ

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TCM - Excluded Services

- TCM does not include:
 - Diagnostic or treatment services
 - Educational activities that may be reasonably expected in the school system
 - Administrative activities or
 - Program activities that do not meet the definition of TCM

Provider Manual Reference: loc ed serv targ

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TCM - LEA Provider Requirements

- To bill for TCM services, LEAs must complete the TCM Labor Survey and submit it to DHCS
 - LEAs billing for TCM services without submitting their survey will not be reimbursed for TCM services
 - The TCM Labor Survey is available at the LEA Program website

Provider Manual Reference: located a prov

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TCM - Authorization Requirements

- To bill TCM in the LEA Program, TCM Services must be included in the student's IEP/IFSP
- An LEA can bill for TCM under both the LEA Program and the MAA Program
 - LEAs are responsible to ensure double billing does not occur

Provider Manual Reference: local service target

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TCM - Qualified Practitioners

- Many qualified rendering practitioners may provide TCM services
- In the LEA Program, Program Specialists may only bill for TCM services
 - Job title in the LEA may differ

Provider Manual Reference: loc ed rend

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TCM - Qualified Practitioners

Program Specialists must have:

- A baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited institution of higher education

AND

- Complete a post baccalaureate professional preparation program in accordance with requirements to qualify for a valid special education credential, clinical or rehabilitative services credential, health services credential or a school psychologist authorization

Provider Manual Reference: loc ed rend

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TCM - Service Limitations

- TCM
 - Bill 1 unit per 15 minutes
 - Daily maximum of 32 units per beneficiary

Provider Manual Reference: loc ed serv targ

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TCM - CMS Regulations In Moratorium

- CMS Regulations Regarding Targeted Case Management Services (CMS-2237)
 - Re-defines “case management” services
- Moratorium expires June 30, 2009, subject to recent American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

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TCM - FAQ #1

How often does my LEA have to submit the TCM Labor Survey in order to bill for TCM services? Do TCM services need to be in the IEP?

LEAs must complete the Labor Survey only once, prior to billing for TCM services. The Labor Survey is available for download on the LEA Program website. TCM is only billable for IEP/IFSP students, and must be authorized in the IEP/IFSP.

Provider Manual Reference: loc ed serv targ

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TCM - FAQ #2

Can a student have multiple case managers for TCM services and bill Medi-Cal?

YES

Medi-Cal recipients can be assigned more than one case manager. When multiple case managers provide TCM services the LEA must avoid duplication of services when billing for the services. The LEA provide must:

- (1) clearly document the LEA and TCM services rendered by each TCM agency or provider, and
- (2) where necessary, enter into written agreements defining the case management services each agency and/or provider will be responsible for rendering.

Provider Manual Reference: loc ed serv targ

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Section 5: Examples of Non- Reimbursable Services in the LEA Program

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Examples of Non-Reimbursable Services

Which Services Are NOT Reimbursed in the LEA Program?

- Personal Care Services
 - Behavioral Intervention Services
 - Services provided by a Speech Assistant (SLPA), Physical Therapy Assistant or Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA)
 - Psychology/counseling services provided by a graduate student who is supervised by a licensed and/or credentialed psychologist, social worker or counselor (Intern)
- 

